

SERIAL NO. 10/510,055

PATENT
PU020098**Remarks/Arguments**

Claims 1-27 are pending and stand rejected.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 15-17, 20, and 21 have been amended to clarify one or more aspects of the subject matter claimed. No new matter has been added.

As amended, the claims now make it clear that:

- there are two different received signals, namely, a first signal and a second signal;
- four different functions can be generated by these signals;
- one signal gives rise to either the skip function or the forward function;
- the selection of the replay function over the reverse function is based upon the duration of the first signal;
- the other signal gives rise to either the replay function or the reverse function; and
- the selection of the skip function over the forward function is based upon the duration of the second signal.

Rejection of Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,847,778 (hereinafter "Vallone"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 21, and 22 are independent claims. Claims 2-20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent base claim 1. Claims 23-27 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent base claim 22. The dependent claims include all the limitations of their respective independent base claims.

Claim 1 calls, in part, for:

"means to invoke one of a replay function and a reverse function upon receipt of a first signal, in response to a duration of the first signal, and means to invoke one of a skip function and a forward function upon receipt of a second signal different from the first control signal, in response to a duration of the second signal."

Based on the duration of a received first signal, either the replay function or the reverse function is invoked. Similarly, based on the duration of a received second signal, either the skip function or the forward function is invoked.

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Vallone fails to teach, show, or suggest any functionality in which the duration of a received control signal allows the selection or invocation of one function over another function. Vallone apparently uses different signals to invoke different operations as opposed to different characteristics of the same signal. Nowhere in the cited section of Vallone or in the entirety of Vallone is there a teaching of, "means to invoke one of a replay function and a reverse function upon receipt of a first signal, in response to a duration of the first signal, and means to invoke one of a skip function and a forward function upon receipt of a second signal different from the first signal, in response to a duration of the second signal", as defined in Applicant's claim 1.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that Vallone does not anticipate claim 1 and the claims dependent directly and indirectly therefrom. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-20 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 is a method claim including limitations similar in nature to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that Vallone does not anticipate claim 21. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 21 is allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 22 calls, in part, for, "a microprocessor for varying the playback speed according to duration of the external speed control signal."

As stated above with respect to claim 1, Vallone lacks any teaching, showing, or remote suggestion that his functionality is dependent upon the duration of a received control signal. So it is believed that Vallone does not anticipate claim 22 and the claims dependent either directly or indirectly therefrom. It is therefore submitted that claims 22-27 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

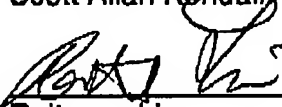
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If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

In the event there are any errors with respect to the fees for this response or any other papers related to this response, the Director is hereby given permission to charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

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